



Gulfport Community Update

May 3-9, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Gulfport Library will be closed through May 18 as staff transitions from Scout Hall to the newly renovated facility. Join Library and City staff for the Library's **grand reopening** at 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 19. The library has undergone a major renovation using grants, donations and Penny for Pinellas funds. Call 873-3919 for more information.

Tickets for the **May 21 Tampa Bay Rays home game** are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$25.00 ticket price includes transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat and complimentary Ray's baseball hat, available at the redemption desk inside Tropicana Field. Rays fans who already have tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure from the Gulfport Casino begins at 5 p.m. For more information call 893-1070.

Upcoming Events:

Come hungry to the **Gulfport Lions Club All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, May 9 beginning at 7 a.m. The Gulfport Lion's Club overlooks Boca Ciega Bay at 4630 Tifton Drive. Admission: \$5 at the door. All proceeds benefit eye-related organizations, Scouts, Little League and many other community organizations.

Enjoy the morning air while volunteering with family and friends during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. - noon. If you are looking for an activity where you can make a difference, get outdoor exercise and meet interesting people while reducing the pollution in our waterways and litter in our community, these events are for you! Please bring a picker/grabber and gloves and be sure to wear sun protection. Water will be provided. For more information, email gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Want to learn how to cut electrical costs? An expert with the **Pinellas County Extension Service Energy Efficiency Project Program** will present an informational program in the Gulfport Public Library Friends Room on Monday, May 11, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Registration is required. For more information call 873-3919.

Join community leaders from throughout Pinellas County for a **discussion of small business matters** at 2 p.m. Friday, May 15 at the Gulfport Casino. Admission is free and open to local businesses, non-profits and community-minded consumers. The Small Business Forum, featuring SBA Regional Director Cassius Butts and Florida Bankers Association CEO Alex Sanchez, is presented by the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by the City of Gulfport, LocalShops1 and the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce.

Join Kevin Baxter of Pinellas County Communications in the Catherine Hickman Theater at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 28 for the **2015 Hurricane Seminar**. Kevin's presentation advises residents on their evacuation zones, and highlights a new "Storm Surge Protector" app that shows how individual addresses could be affected by storm surge. Hurricane related vendors include The American Red Cross, Florida Green Energy Works, Gulfport's Community Emergency Response Team, Gulfport Fire Department, Gulfport Police Department, Gulfport Community Development Department, Harbor Freight, Lowes, Home Depot, Morgan Exteriors, Solar Energy Systems, Storm Source LLC, Pinellas County, PSTA and Whitco Insurance. The

Theater lobby will open at 6 p.m. for attendees to view vendor displays. Pizza and drinks will also be offered for purchase. For more information call Gail Biron at 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	112
Self-initiated calls for service	337
Offenses	28
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	34

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to a vehicle crash on Gulfport Boulevard on the morning of April 30 after a car with one occupant careened off the road and through the fence at Stetson College, overturned and caught fire. The driver was critically injured and died at Palms of Pasadena Hospital a short time later.

Adam Horine was arrested at his home in Gulfport on May 1, on a warrant issued by the Carrollton, Kentucky Police Department. He was taken to the Pinellas County Jail to await extradition.

Tyler Davis was arrested for battery after officers responded to a bar fight in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard. Several witnesses stated Davis was intoxicated when he got into a verbal altercation with another patron and punched him in the eye. Matthew McCarthy was issued a trespass warning at the same time. He was arrested a brief time later when he returned to the bar.

A resident in the 2800 block of Tifton Drive reported early May 2 that that someone entered her vehicle overnight and stole a wallet from the center console. She insisted the vehicle was locked but there were no signs of forced entry.

A resident in the 5300 Block of 17th Avenue reported that someone stole a dirt bike from his backyard. The bike was not secured and did not have any identifying features.

Officer Marshall observed a male he recognized as a subject from the PCSO warrants page, walking in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard on May 3. After being positively identified, Matthew Hagen was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear on a trespassing charge.

A resident in the 4900 Block of 31st Avenue reported that someone stole his bicycle from his front porch, where it was locked up with a chain. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the 2600 block of 53rd Street on May 4 after a neighbor reported that a female was trespassing inside her mother's home. A male and a female fled the area before officers arrived, but were located later. During the investigation it was determined that the subjects were not trespassing because one lives there. Both subjects consented to a search. When Officer Marshall started to search Chris Alaimo, Alaimo tried to shove a crack pipe down the front of his pants. He was arrested for possession of paraphernalia.

An officer was flagged down in the area of 49th Street & 17th Avenue on May 6 by a cab driver requesting a stand-by with a woman who refused to pay the fare, until St. Pete Police could respond. The woman paid the fare and got into another cab. The matter was resolved and the call to St. Pete Police was canceled.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 4 hours this week. One contact was made and officers participated in docking training.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	15
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	21
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	9
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	10

Detective Pham assisted Sgt. Woodman with an interview of a homicide suspect.

Detective Crowson investigated an armed robbery case; spoke with Gulfport Elementary School students about caring and compassion during their Citizen of the Month breakfast, and; investigated a Green Dot fraud case.

School Resource Officer Motte arrested a student for sale/delivery of a controlled substance within 1000 feet of a school; mentored two students; instructed the Explorer post meeting on Monday night on the topic of in-progress crimes and appropriate responses, and; covered patrol due to low staffing.

School Resource Officer Langston escorted a disruptive student off campus; investigated a cell phone theft; performed a mental health assessment; responded to a drug call in progress in which two arrests were made; wrote a letter of reference for a student; spoke with a student regarding issues she was having with her guardian; spoke with a male student regarding his behavior towards a female student, and spoke with two students regarding thefts at the school.

Margaret Palmisano assisted with the FBI audit of UCR reporting compliance and accuracy.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	20
Supplements reviewed:	53
Public records requests:	26
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	5
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	29

MARINA

Assisted in twenty nine (29) pump outs, evacuating four hundred twenty (420) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand five hundred ninety one (2,591) gallons of gas and seven hundred twenty nine (729) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety two (92) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 52' motorboat, 38' sailboat, 35' sailboat, 34' sailboat, and a 27' sailboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Straightened parking blocks in west parking lot.
- Cleaned dingy in storage area and dock boxes on pier six.
- Cleaned and inspected gas, diesel and sumps.
- Cleaned shrimp tank pick up.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes and Recreation & upcoming event information on City website.
- Provided control room coverage for May 5 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV640.
- Continued planning for Library grand reopening.
- Continued training new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborhood Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

The Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of

every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is May 11. By appointment only; call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** every second Monday of the month. Topic for May 11 meeting: *Medicare Special Enrollment Periods*.

Ladies, spoil yourself and enjoy an elegant & fun afternoon at **Mother's Day High Tea** on Monday, May 11 at 3 p.m. Hats & gloves are encouraged but not required. Bring photos of your children & grandchildren to share. Limited seating; tickets must be obtained prior to event.

Learn to use thoughts to change your life and to free yourself from an inner or external dialogue that is no longer beneficial during **Law of Attraction: The Power of Your Thoughts** on Wednesday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Tony & Christine from The Cell Phone Solution return at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 14 for the monthly **Cell Phone Q&A**. Bring your cell phone & ask your questions!

Want more companionship in your life? Curious about online dating? Check out **Healthy Aging with Heidi Crocket: Dating for Seniors** on Monday, May 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Confused about your healthcare? Attend **Health & Wealth 101** on Wednesday, May 20 at 3 p.m. Presented by Ameri-Life.

Enjoy a tranquil visit to world famous Sunken Gardens during the Senior Center's May 21 **Gulfport Getaway**. Space is limited. Reserve your seat by May 15. GEMS members \$10/nonmembers \$12. Price includes round trip transportation, admission, & guided tour.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, May 22. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Learn about employment opportunities for people with disabilities during **Vocational Rehab** on Wednesday on May 27 at 2 p.m. Registration required.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee and donuts in a relaxed setting during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 2.

Turn your favorite photograph into a work of art during **Painting with Judith** every Monday at 5:30 p.m. No experience necessary.

Volunteers for the **Telephone Reassurance Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers visit the Gulfport Senior Center every first & third Tuesday of the month to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organization for reuse, recycle or education.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (*last week's events*):

- Sunday, April 26 5 p.m. - Top Local Chef Competition (Turnout 350)
- Tuesday, April 28 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 11)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 63)
- Wednesday, April 29 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime featuring Keith Jones & the
Makeshifts (Turnout 361)
- Thursday, April 30 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 21)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

- Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$7
- Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
- Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7
- Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$7
- Friday, May 8 7:30 p.m. - *Soul Train Throwback Party*. Soul food & live music, prizes for
best '70's costumes, champagne fountain. Tickets: \$75 (\$140/couple),
available at www.actsoultrain.eventbrite.com. For table reservations and
sponsorship inquiries call 346-8223 or visit www.act1midtown.org.

Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*)

- Sunday, April 26 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Play On*
(Turnout 54)
- Friday, May 1 7 p.m. - *Michael Tomlinson: Songs, Stories & Laughter* (Turnout 106)

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (*last week's events*):

- Sunday, April 26 9:15 a.m. - Bible study (Turnout 6)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, April 28 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, April 30 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Monday, April 28 9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center
11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 12)

Tuesday, April 28 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Wednesday, April 29 10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Casino (Turnout 17)

Thursday, April 30 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, May 1 11 a.m. - Line dancing at Recreation Center

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Every Monday 9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion
11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

Visit the **Circle of Friends Book Shop** during Library hours.

The Gulfport Library offers **free one-on-one computer instruction** on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, April 27, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, April 28, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, April 28, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 29, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 29, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, April 29, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, April 29, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, April 30, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, April 30, 3:30.m. - *Yoga Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, May 1, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Monday, May 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project Program:* Learn how to lower your power bill. For more information call 873-3919 or visit the Reference Desk.

Thursday, May 14, 2 p.m. - *Sunshine and Rainbows - Florida Law for the LGBT Community:* Learn about the status of the current legal landscape, presented by local attorney Elizabeth Barnes.

Thursday, May 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 873-3919 for more information.

Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m. - *Freedom to Read, Freedom to Marry: Where We Stand:* Program detailing LGBTQ issues presented by Nadine Smith in the Frances Purdy Friends Room.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 916-0916.

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.* Relocated to City Hall Council Chambers during Library renovation & transition.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information contact Robin Riddell at riddell@gmail.com.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.* For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic March April 26 - May 2, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	666	428
Sun. 4/26	Library closed	
Mon. 4/27	104	74
Tue. 4/28	98	71
Wed. 4/29	85	60
Thu. 4/30	148	82
Fri. 5/1	158	72
Sat. 5/2	63	53

Recreation Center

The Multipurpose room was rented 1-6 p.m. Saturday, May 2 for a baby shower with forty five (45) in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Thirty three (33) children have been registered for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**, and six (6) for swim lessons. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Fifty eight (58) children are registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty four (24) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Seventy six (76) teens are registered for the **2014-2015 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the City Disaster Planning meeting on Friday.

Shanoah Washington-Davis worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

John Lapham & Alton Hooker assisted the Pinellas County Film Commission on Thursday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport thirty nine (39) Gulfport Elementary students and three (3) adults to Seminole Lanes on Monday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 38 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Haz-Mat Response

Life Safety:

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 1 Site Plan Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, May 14. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The Gulfport Fire Departments Public Protection Classification (PPC) International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rating has increased from a 3 to a 2 classification.

Gulfport Residents and businesses may see improvements in future insurance costs as PPC plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. PPC information is used by insurance companies as part of their decision-making when deciding what business to write, coverage to offer, and prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance.

- The Gulfport Firefighters are undergoing their annual Physicals with LifeScans. Lab work and blood tests will be performed by Lab Corp. The Physicals will also include a series of tests for Firefighter Safety and Wellbeing under NFPA 1500. Since the first Wellness Center, an alarming number of Firefighters have been identified with elevated heart risk conditions that could lead to a deadly heart attack or stroke and even cancerous conditions.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association meeting on Thursday.
- May 3-9 is National Arson Awareness Week: The U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System estimates 16,800 intentionally set fires in residential buildings each year in the U.S.; resulting in 280 deaths, 775 injuries and over \$593 million in property damage each year.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Sought estimates for Library a/c repair.
- Installed shelving in employee office at City Hall.
- Repaired a/c unit at Senior Center Snack Bar, and set up rooms for daily activities.
- Cleaned restrooms outside Casino.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up barricades and trashcans, and provided traffic control for filming at Recreation Center and removed equipment following event.
- Removed sand and grass build up on sidewalks at beach.
- Continued sealing picnic tables at Recreation Center & beach.
- Repaired bench at Fire Station and sign at Williams Pier.
- Reworked sand at beach volleyball courts, and replaced net.
- Installed *NO SMOKING* signs at all playground entrances.
- Replaced butt can at Recreation Center entrance.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Senior Center, Library, Welcome signage areas and police compound, and raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Tangerine Greenway, Tomlinson, Clymer, Calm Bayou, Veterans & Wood Ibis Parks, Tangerine Pond, City complex, Senior Center & Library grounds, Trail Spur, 56th Street drainage area, and 28th Street signage area.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced guard and wheel on stick edger.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Senior Center, Library and Caldwell Park.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.

- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Removed dead palm tree at 62nd Street & 11th Avenue.
- Replaced “No Parking” signs at 20th Avenue & 53rd Street.
- Cleared seaweed from beach.
- Cleaned alley at 30th Avenue, between 49th & 50th Streets.
- Restocked mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Placed concrete bollard near storm drain at 20th Avenue & 58th Street.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes 9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule
- Disconnected water service at 34 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 128 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 14 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 35 backflow devices due in April.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired backflow & meter at 1842 54th Street and backflow at 5002 Gulfport Boulevard.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired and reinstalled tire on Police vehicle 501.
- Delivered Police vehicle #9 to Suncoast Chrysler for inspection and possible repair.
- Replaced two rear tires on Police vehicle #154, ruptured hydraulic hoses on Sanitation truck #46, two drive tires on Sanitation truck #46 and City emblem decals on Water Department truck #80.
- Continued repairs on Fire Department vehicle E17.
- Investigated and remedied automatic fan/cooling issue in Police vehicle #54.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements.

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits.

The number of code enforcement cases for April was 194. The fiscal year-to-date total is 1,137. The number of citizen complaints was 17 for a fiscal year-to-date total of 96. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8.4 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at www.mygulfport.us.

May 13, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

- V15-15; 2833 Seabreeze Drive South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 8 feet 8 inches, from 26 feet 4 inches to 17 feet 8 inches to allow for the installation of a proposed new boat lift.
- V15-16; 3001 York Street South; Variance request to:
 1. reduce the side yard setback requirement by 1.14 feet, from 6 feet to 4.86 feet; and

2. reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 22 feet, from 25 feet to 3 feet to allow for the construction a screen enclosure.